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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | Examiner: K. Brown |
| Masami TSUKAMOTO |) | Group Art Unit: 2877 |
| Application No.: 09/829,915 |) | Allowed: March 26, 2003 |
| Filed: April 11, 2001 |) | Confirmation No.: 8192 |
| For: CONTAMINATION PREVENTION |) | April 29, 2003 |
| IN OPTICAL SYSTEM |) | |

Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 6-260375 has been discussed on page 4 of the specification. This document corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,559,584, a copy of which is also enclosed.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

No fee is believed to be due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 should any fee be deemed necessary for filing this paper.

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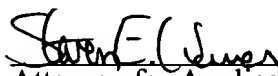
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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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